

## Message Text

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14  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-10 /092 W  
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R 211213Z OCT 76  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8414  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1450

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO  
SUBJ: WEST BANK PRESS REACTION TO RIYADH SUMMIT DECISIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE WEST BANK PRESS GREETED THE RIYADH SUMMIT DECISIONS WITH JOY AND OPTIMISM AND CALLED FOR QUICK, COMPLETE AND IMPARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION. KUDOS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, DISCREET ADVICE FOR IRAQ AND LIBYA, AND AN EYE TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WEST BANK ARABIC PRESS WAS UNANIMOUS IN EXPRESSING JOY AND OPTIMISM AT THE RESULTS OF THE RIYADH SUMMIT WHICH, ACCORDING TO AL QUDS, OCT. 20, "PORTEND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A RELAXATION IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS."

3. HOWEVER, AL QUDS WARNED: "THERE ARE NUMEROUS AND VARIED FACTIONS WITHIN LEBANON AND OUTSIDE WHICH  
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WILL NOT BE PLEASED BY THE AGREEMENT UNFORTUNATELY...

THESE SMALL EXTREMIST FACTIONS OF THE LEFT AND RIGHT MUST BE DEALT WITH RESOLUTELY AND WITHOUT GENTLENESS."

4. AL FEJR, OCT. 20, ALSO WELCOMED THE RIYADH DECISIONS, BUT CALLED FOR A NEUTRAL SECURITY FORCE TO IMPLEMENT THEM. THIS NEUTRALITY, AL FEJR SUGGESTED, COULD BE BEST ASSURED IF THE TROOPS WERE SUPPLIED BY RELATIVELY DISINTERESTED PARTIES SUCH AS TUNIS, ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.

5. WHILE SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WERE SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE SUMMIT, AL QUDS, OCT. 21, DIFFERED WITH IRAQ AND LIBYA OVER THE ADVISABILITY OF AN EXPANDED SUMMIT. "DESPITE THE SUCCESS OF THE RIYADH SUMMIT, AND EXPANDED SUMMIT IS NEEDED SINCE THERE ARE OTHER ARAB DIFFERENCES...E.G. BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA, SYRIA AND IRAQ, ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, AND THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN."

6. CITING VIEWS OF HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT A SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE CRISIS INCREASES PROSPECTS FOR AN OVERALL, PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE REGION AND STATEMENTS OF SADAT AND THE SOVIET UNION, AL QUDS PREDICTED A COMING PHASE OF WIDESCALE POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND CALLED UPON ARABS TO UNITE AND SPEAK FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH SO AS TO OBTAIN THE GREATEST FRUITS OF THIS ACTIVITY.

7. COMMENT. WEST BANK PRESS REACTION TO THE SUMMIT DECISIONS SEEMS TO DERIVE MORE FROM THE ATMOSPHERE OF RECONCILIATION AT RIYADH RATHER THAN ANY PROFOUND STUDY OF THE DECISIONS THEMSELVES. THIS REACTION REFLECTS A BELIEF WIDELY HELD BY WEST BANKERS THAT THE PLO LEADERSHIP HAS ERRED BADLY IN LEBANON IN ALLOWING PALESTINIANS THERE TO BE DRAWN INTO AN EXTRANEIOUS STRUGGLE AGAINST A POWERFUL, FORMER ALLY-SYRIA. A FACE-SAVING OUT WHICH LEAVE THE PLO INTACT IS AN ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYERS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, WEST BANKS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976JERUSA01450  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760395-1021  
**From:** JERUSALEM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761030/aaaaazaz.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2005 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WEST BANK PRESS REACTION TO RIYADH SUMMIT DECISIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006